He's too sexy for his hat

The online version of a Chinese newspaper takes a satirical report at face value, hailing North Korea's dictator as the Sexiest Man Alive
PAGE 6

SWISS WATCH

BOSTON BRUINS FORWARD TYLER SEGUIN IS MAKING THE BEST OF THE NHL LOCKOUT BY PLYING HIS TRADE IN THE SWISS LEAGUE PAGE 18

SASKATOON metro®

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

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Young Rider fan ejected

Enemy territory. Teen who was kept out of Grey Cup pep rally in Calgary school has since received apology

A young student in Alberta has taken Rider pride to a whole new level.

Calgary's Catholic school district has apologized to Alesandra Behr and her parents after she was temporarily withheld from a Grey Cup pep rally for wearing a Saskatchewan Roughriders jersey.

Behr, 13, said the vice-principal at her school in the city's northwest initially informed her that she would be barred from the festivities last Friday unless she changed.

"I thought it was really stupid," Behr said, prior to estimating she spent 45 minutes in the principal's office before the miscommunication was sorted out. "I don't feel like it's right, what they did.... They say stand up for what you believe in, and when they tell you that's not right, you feel like you have done something wrong."

After learning what had happened, the school's principal intervened "immediately" and Behr was allowed to participate for the entire duration of the pep rally, said school district spokesperson Janet Corsten.

"It was a temporary, misguided judgment on the part of the staff member at the school," Corsten said. "It was corrected immediately by the principal.... Most importantly, all students were able to fully participate in the rally."

Behr said she did miss preparations for the event, which was attended by a local television-news crew, including the choreographing of a pro-Calgary Stampeders dance routine.

Behr's parents were quick to commend the school for resolving the matter and apologizing, but father Jason maintains the misunderstanding should never have occurred in the first place.

"She wasn't violating the dress code or anything," he said. "Because of that, she should be allowed to express herself freely."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO IN CALGARY

Rider pride

- Alesandra Behr said she was born and bred a Saskatchewan Roughriders fan by her father, Jason. He has held Calgary Stampeders season tickets for 13 years, but always dons his team's green jerseys when they visit town.
- Behr's parents requested the name of her school and vice-principal be withheld as they wanted to avoid personal attacks.

Alesandra Behr is seen wearing her Saskatchewan Roughriders jersey with pride this week. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO IN CALGARY

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Resource earnings down, but province on track for surplus

Mid-year update. Growth in other areas of economy balances drop in potash and oil revenue, finance minister says

A drop of more than $400 million in potash and oil revenue has hit Saskatchewan's bottom line, but the province says it is still in the black.

The mid-year financial update released by the government on Tuesday forecasts a $12.4-million surplus. It's a big drop from the spring budget, which initially estimated a $95-million surplus.

"The decrease in the price of a barrel of oil has been significant. It's very volatile," Finance Minister Ken Krawetz said.

Overall revenue is projected at $11.2 billion, down $51 million from budget estimates. Potash revenue dropped by $239.8 million and oil is down $164.6 million.

Krawetz said despite a significant downturn in resource revenue, the budget remains balanced because of growth in other parts of the economy.

The mid-year report says personal income tax is up $167.7 million, there is more revenue from a larger-than-expected crop in 2012 and ministries have been tightening expenses to find $61.2 million in savings.

But the province also got a big boost with a one-time, $123-million resource surcharge that came from adopting new federal income-tax rules.

Krawetz said the province could have been in trouble without that money. "In this case, the $123 million is a one-time partnership adjustment and we recognize that and that's why there will be challenges for the financial planning for 2013-14 and beyond."

The budget was also balanced on what is called a summary financial basis, which takes into account all areas of government, including Crown corporations.

But the Opposition NDP said the budget update is off-track. New Democrat Trent Wotherspoon said the resource-revenue projections have been a concern "from Day 1."

"Unfortunately, that seems to be a reality that they were overly optimistic," he said. "We still have some concern that maybe we should be more cautious than we are here at mid-year."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finance Minister Ken Krawetz delivers the 2012-13 mid-year report on Tuesday at the legislature in Regina.

ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO IN REGINA

Manslaughter

Man pleads guilty in stabbing death

There were tears in a Saskatoon courtroom as friends and family of Nicolaas Smith faced the man who stabbed him to death in June.

Arnold Halkett, 46, pleaded guilty to manslaughter on Tuesday.

Dee Klassen, a friend of Smith's for 17 years, said he had recently moved into his apartment above Bud's on Broadway and had invited friends over for a party. He was killed there on June 8.

She said Smith, who was 29, will also never get to see his daughter, who was born nearly three months after his death.

Halkett will be sentenced on Jan. 3.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/CKOM/CJME

First Link program

Alzheimer Society asks province for more funding

The Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan says it needs more money from the province to help a growing number of people with dementia.

Society members were at the legislature asking for $450,000 for a program called First Link, a network of education and support services for patients and their families.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Health gives the program $50,000 a year.

The society noted, in comparison, that Manitoba provides $210,000 for the program, while Alberta gives $1.4 million annually.

Society CEO Joanne Bracken said more money would mean the program could expand outside of Regina and Saskatoon.

Health Minister Dustin Duncan said he would like to see the program expand, but requests for more money will have to be considered in the provincial budget process.

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Local landmark church is first to be digitally preserved

Prestigious company. Church will be featured alongside other famous global landmarks such as Sydney Opera House

JANE CAULFIELD
jane.caulfield@metronews.ca

Saskatoon's historical Third Avenue Church will be the first Canadian heritage site to be digitally preserved in the global project CyArk.org.

CyArk.org is an online, not-for-profit global initiative aiming to preserve 500 of the world's significant heritage and cultural sites with 3D digital models over the next five years.

"I think this is a huge sign of support from an international community," said Mark Turner, artistic director of Third Ave Centre.

"This will have a huge impact (on) tourism as Saskatchewan continues to grow," said Turner.

The church will be featured alongside other global landmarks such as the Sydney Opera House in Australia and Mount Rushmore.

"We will be alongside all these really incredible landmarks," said Turner.

Turner said that CyArk.org first learned about the Third Avenue Church by reading about it on the Internet when it was experiencing financial issues in the summer.

"They were really blown away by the architecture of the building," said Turner. "The architectural quality is rare in Western Canada."

For Turner, and other supporters of the landmark church, this digital preservation is a win.

"It's an incredible amount of support for the future of the building," said Turner.

3D record

Preserved through laser scans

The digital preservation of Third Avenue United Church was done by a laser scan courtesy of engineering firm Stantec. The specially engineered laser scan creates an exact 3D record of the building and its iconic architecture. You can check out a video of the 3D rendering by logging on to metronews.ca. METRO

Saskatoon's Third Avenue Church nearly closed this summer, but managed to stay open through anonymous donations. Now it is being forever preserved as a historic and cultural landmark in the online global initiative CyArk.org. JANE CAULFIELD/METRO

Denise Stokich, left, HIV strategy co-ordinator with the Saskatoon Health Region (SHR), and Heather Miazga, manager of the positive living program and HIV strategy with the SHR, pose for a photo on Tuesday with information on HIV-AIDS that is being distributed as part of AIDS Awareness Week at Saskatoon City Hospital. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

City sees 'significant' decrease in incidents of HIV-AIDS, SHR says

The Saskatoon Health Region (SHR) says the city has made some major strides in the fight against HIV-AIDS.

Johnmark Opondo, deputy medical health officer with the SHR said more accessible testing and assisted access to care is a driving force behind a decrease in new cases.

"So between 2010 we reported 74 new cases, and in 2011 we've reported 65 new cases — so despite doing more testing, we're finding fewer cases, which is good."

Opondo explained although testing is important to stopping the spread of HIV-AIDS, getting treatment is also crucial.

"Testing is only one-half of the equation," he said, adding proper treatment can cut chances of transmission by 60 to 90 per cent.

Quoted

"There are way more conversations happening about it and that has to be a bonus."

Heather Byrne, AIDS Saskatoon interim executive co-ordinator

Alongside a decrease in new cases, organizations say dialogue around HIV-AIDS in Saskatoon has increased and AIDS Saskatoon interim executive co-ordinator Heather Byrne said it's a huge step in addressing the spread of the disease.

"There are way more conversations happening about it and that has to be a bonus," said Byrne.

"The dialogue is happening and we are getting the message out that it's an important issue to be talking about in Saskatoon and it seems as though people are starting to pay attention."

The province will be releasing its numbers on HIV-AIDS incident rates for 2011 this Friday.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Online

For more local news go to metronews.ca.

Again, Tahrir anger boils over

200,000 jam Cairo's iconic square. Egypt faces dangerous new turmoil after Islamist president seizes vast new powers

Suddenly, it was the Arab Spring all over again.

More than 200,000 people packed Cairo's iconic Tahrir Square on Tuesday in the biggest challenge yet to Islamist President Mohammed Morsi.

And the same angry chants used against Hosni Mubarak were turned against his successor.

"The people want to bring down the regime!" and "erhal, erhal" — Arabic for "leave, leave" — rang out across the world-famous plaza, this time directed at Egypt's first freely elected president.

The massive, flag-waving, chanting throng protesting Morsi's assertion of near-absolute powers rivalled some of the largest crowds that helped drive Mubarak from office last year.

The protests were sparked by edicts Morsi issued last week that effectively neutralize the judiciary, the last branch of government he does not control.

But they turned into a broader outpouring of anger against Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood.

Both, opponents say, have used election victories to monopolize power, squeeze out rivals and dictate a new, Islamist constitution — while doing little to solve Egypt's mounting economic and security woes.

Clashes broke out in several cities, with Morsi's opponents attacking Brotherhood offices, setting fire to at least one.

Protesters and Brotherhood members pelted each other with stones and firebombs in the Nile Delta city of Mahalla el-Kobra, leaving at least 100 people injured.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Power has exposed the Brotherhood. We discovered their true face."

Housewife Laila Salah, who attended the massive Tahrir protest

More than 200,000 chanting protesters cram into the iconic Tahrir Square in Cairo on Tuesday in a massive outpouring of anger over Islamist President Mohammed Morsi's assertion of near-absolute powers. NARIMAN EL-MOFTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twitter must address privacy fears, MP says

Tweet this, Twitter fans.

NDP MP Charlie Angus says Canadians need to know more about how the social-media giant protects their privacy.

Angus publicly quit using the microblogging site earlier this year, likening it to being badgered by a drunk on a 24-hour bus ride.

But he says a House of Commons study on privacy and social media requires the company's input.

A Commons committee decided last May to study the steps being taken by social-media companies to protect the personal information of Canadians.

It followed high-profile interventions by Canada's privacy commissioner on the use of personal data by sites like Google and Facebook.

Both companies have appeared before the committee, but NDP MP Charmaine Borg says Twitter refused.

The company couldn't be reached for comment.

The committee has now agreed to send a formal letter asking Twitter to testify.

Angus said Google and Facebook have supported the study, but the committee needs to go further.

Charlie Angus has given up using Twitter. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We're not going to have a full sense unless we have the main players. We need Twitter."

Charlie Angus

The motion to formally call Twitter to testify came after a representative from Facebook took committee members through that company's privacy policies.

Facebook's relationship with Canada's privacy commissioner, Jennifer Stoddart, is robust, said Robert Sherman, manager of privacy and public policy for the social-media giant.

Canadians are heavy users of social media.

A Paris-based analyst group reported in July that there are just over 10 million Twitter accounts based in Canada.

Another analytics company said earlier this year that Facebook has about 18 million Canadian users, more than half the population.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sexiest man? Chinese paper falls for spoof

The online version of China's Communist Party newspaper has hailed a report by The Onion naming North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un as the "Sexiest Man Alive" — not realizing it is satire.

The People's Daily ran a 55-page photo spread on its website in a tribute to the round-faced leader, under the headline "North Korea's top leader named The Onion's Sexiest Man Alive for 2012."

Quoting The Onion's spoof report, the Chinese newspaper wrote, "With his devastatingly handsome, round face, his boyish charm, and his strong, sturdy frame, this Pyongyang-bred heartthrob is every woman's dream come true."

"Blessed with an air of power that masks an unmistakable cute, cuddly side, Kim made this newspaper's editorial board swoon with his impeccable fashion sense, chic short hairstyle, and, of course, that famous smile," the People's Daily cited The Onion as saying.

In 2002, the Beijing Evening News, one of the capital city's biggest tabloids at the time, published as news the fictional account that the U.S. Congress wanted a new building and that it might leave Washington. The Onion article was a spoof of the way sports teams threaten to leave cities in order to get new stadiums. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Bangladesh workers struggle to air complaints

Deadly factory blaze. Fleeing workers found main exit locked and no emergency exit; survivor said managers told workers to get back to work after fire alarm went off

Clothing is king in Bangladesh, which exports more garments than any other in the world except China. It is responsible for four out of every five export dollars and has turned factory owners into members of parliament and leaders of sports clubs.

However, workers in those factories complain about poor working conditions and pay that can be less than $40 a month. An agency called the Industrial Police is specifically assigned to deal with unrest in factories, and labour activists accuse government forces of killing one of their leaders. Employees are barred by law from forming trade unions, even though Bangladesh allows workers in other industries to unionize.

Workers hope that could change following the fire Saturday that killed 112 people at the Tazreen Fashions factory that made T-shirts and polo shirts for Walmart and other retailers.

In an interview Tuesday, the managing director of Tazreen Fashions expressed concern — about possibly losing foreign buyers. But there was no mention in the article of concern for victims or their families. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Just business?

- Wal-Mart says it decided to stop doing business with Tazreen after an audit deemed the factory "high risk" last year, but a supplier subcontracted work to the factory anyway. The retail giant said it stopped working with that supplier on Monday.
- In September, Karl-Johan Persson, chief executive of Swedish retail chain H&M, visited Bangladesh and said his 2,600-store group would increase its business relationship with the country.

Bangladeshi garments workers march through a street to mourn the death of the victims of Saturday's fire in a garment factory, on the outskirts of Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Tuesday. KHURSHED RINKU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facebook arrests

Two Mumbai cops suspended

Two senior policemen have been suspended indefinitely for arresting two women over a Facebook post criticizing the shutdown of Mumbai for the funeral of a powerful politician.

The magistrate who registered the case against the women has been transferred to another district.

Police also arrested nine men who vandalized a medical clinic run by the uncle of one of the women.

One of the women had posted a Facebook comment complaining that Mumbai had come to a standstill after the death of right-wing leader Bal Thackeray. Her friend "liked" the post.

Their arrest last week was seen as a misuse of Internet laws and an attempt to curb freedom of expression. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Parking spots are Hong Kong's newest investment craze

Speculation. This past weekend, buyers paid up to $167K per space

Investors looking for new places to park their cash in Hong Kong are driving up prices for parking spaces, sparking fears of a bubble in the Asian financial centre.

Prices for parking spots in Hong Kong are nearing historic highs, the side effect of government curbs to cool the housing market amid worries of overheating following the latest round of monetary stimulus in the U.S. last month.

There are "a lot of speculators in the market, especially for car parks," said Buggle Lau, senior analyst with Midland Realty. A bubble is "definitely forming."

Over the weekend, a developer sold about 500 parking spots at a new suburban apartment complex at prices of up to about $167,000 per space.

In a commercial building near the city's financial district on Hong Kong Island, an investor has put 34 parking spaces on sale for about $12.9 million, according to a report last week in the Ming Pao newspaper.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Celebrated Hong Kong model Lisa S sits in a Porsche at the Beijing Auto Show in this file photo. Where do you park your Porsche in Hong Kong? In a $167,000 parking space, according to the latest transactions. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Gift cards. Swap site will trade unwanted plastic

If the idea of re-gifting never held much appeal for you, take heart: There are dedicated sites that make it easier to part ways with unwanted gift cards.

This holiday season, if you find yourself in possession of a card designated for a restaurant or retailer you don't like or frequent, you can trade it in for a card you do want.

Frances Ho, co-founder and COO of Canadian website CardSwap, said she had an epiphany around four years ago when she found herself with a wallet full of gift cards for specific stores where she couldn't find anything she really wanted to purchase. She sought to pinpoint an easier way to exchange the gift cards for cash or for other cards she'd be more inclined to use.

This Christmas will mark the fourth in operation for CardSwap. Users selling cards have the choice of accepting points that are used to swap for other gift cards, receiving a cheque or being paid through PayPal, said Ho. Individuals can also convert unused gift cards for charitable donations, with CardSwap issuing payment for up to 92 per cent of the face value.

"I think when you give a gift card out, the thought is there already; and if it isn't the correct gift card, I think the person that gave it to you would rather you use it at a place that you would go to and really enjoy," she added.

"The point of giving a gift card is so that a person is able to splurge a little or treat (themselves), so I think it's perfectly fine to swap it for something you're actually going to use."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Sometimes, when you receive a gift card, it just may not be the right place for you and so you just want to swap it out for your favourite store or your favourite restaurant."

Frances Ho, co-founder and COO of the Canadian website CardSwap, now in its fourth year of operation.

Market Minute

DOLLAR
100.53¢ (-0.09¢)

TSX
12,111.63 (-73.42)

OIL
$87.18 US (-56¢)

GOLD
$1,742.30 US (-$7.30)

Natural gas: $3.89 US (+16¢)
Dow Jones: 12,878.13 (-89.24)

Auto industry

Feds usher in new emission rules

On the eve of global climate talks that will put Canada's contentious policies under the microscope, Ottawa has introduced its next set of rules to cut greenhouse-gas emissions from cars and light trucks.

Under regulations proposed Tuesday, vehicles built between 2017 and 2025 must cut emissions by an average of five per cent a year, every year. Environment Minister Peter Kent said that should cut annual gas costs by about $900 per auto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business jets

Bombardier nets plane order worth up to $7.8B

Bombardier has made the biggest sale of business aircraft in its history with a deal to provide up to 142 Global aircraft to private European luxury charter company VistaJet in a transaction potentially worth up to $7.8 billion US.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ralcorp purchase

ConAgra becomes top U.S. producer of private-label food

ConAgra Foods is set to become America's biggest maker of store-brand foods, with a $5-billion US purchase of Ralcorp that expands its stake in the growing market for cereals, crackers and other packaged foods sold under private labels.

The deal announced Tuesday caps a year of acquisitions for ConAgra, which makes brands including Banquet, Chef Boyardee and Marie Callender's. The company, based in Omaha, Neb., also made multiple attempts to buy Ralcorp last year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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BOYZ OF MIXED MESSAGEZ AND MISUNDERSTANDINGZ

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

There's an epidemic of misunderstanding going on.

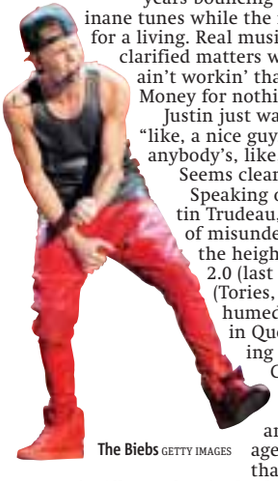
Why, just the other day, I was misunderstood by a reader who called me "rich" and "arrogant." He was, at best, only half right. I'm tempted to clarify, but that usually leads to more misunderstanding.

Ford Nation Chief-in-turmoil TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

At least I'm not alone. If I think I'm misunderstood, what about poor Rob Ford, the mayor of Toronto? He tried so hard to make everything simple;for example, he characterized the complex problems of transit in a North American megacity as "the war on cars." And what thanks does he get? Booted out of office for conflict of interest around his football association, that's what.

It's not his fault. It's those leftists like lawyer Clayton Ruby who fail to understand that he's a simple man of the people who doesn't get conflict of interest and all that stuff.

Then there's Justin Bieber, the world's most misunderstood pop tart, who was booed every time he showed his face at the Grey Cup, even though there were worthy alternative targets such as Burton Cummings' ridiculous rendition of O Canada. Justin thinks these "haterz" hate the very idea of Justin Bieber. They can't stand it that some kid made more than $100 million over the last two years bouncing around the stage to inane tunes while the rest of us had to work for a living. Real musician Mark Knopfler clarified matters when he sang: "That ain't workin' that's the way you do it. Money for nothin' ..."



The Biebs GETTY IMAGES

Justin just wants to be known as, "like, a nice guy. But I won't take anybody's, like, s–t."

Seems clear to me.

Speaking of Justin, there's Justin Trudeau, yet another victim of misunderstanding. Right at the height of Trudeaumania 2.0 (last week), the haterz (Tories, in this case), exhumed a video clip of Justin in Quebec circa 2010 moaning about the state of Canada because of the Albertans "who control our community and socio-democratic agenda." Needless to say, that was misunderstood in Alberta, but in Quebec nothing was lost in translation.

What he meant to convey was that "Albertans" was shorthand for Stephen Harper and his gang of neo-Tories, but everybody just misunderstood. I am also tempted to point out that a lot of people don't understand that Stephen Harper is, in fact, from Etobicoke. Like Rob Ford.

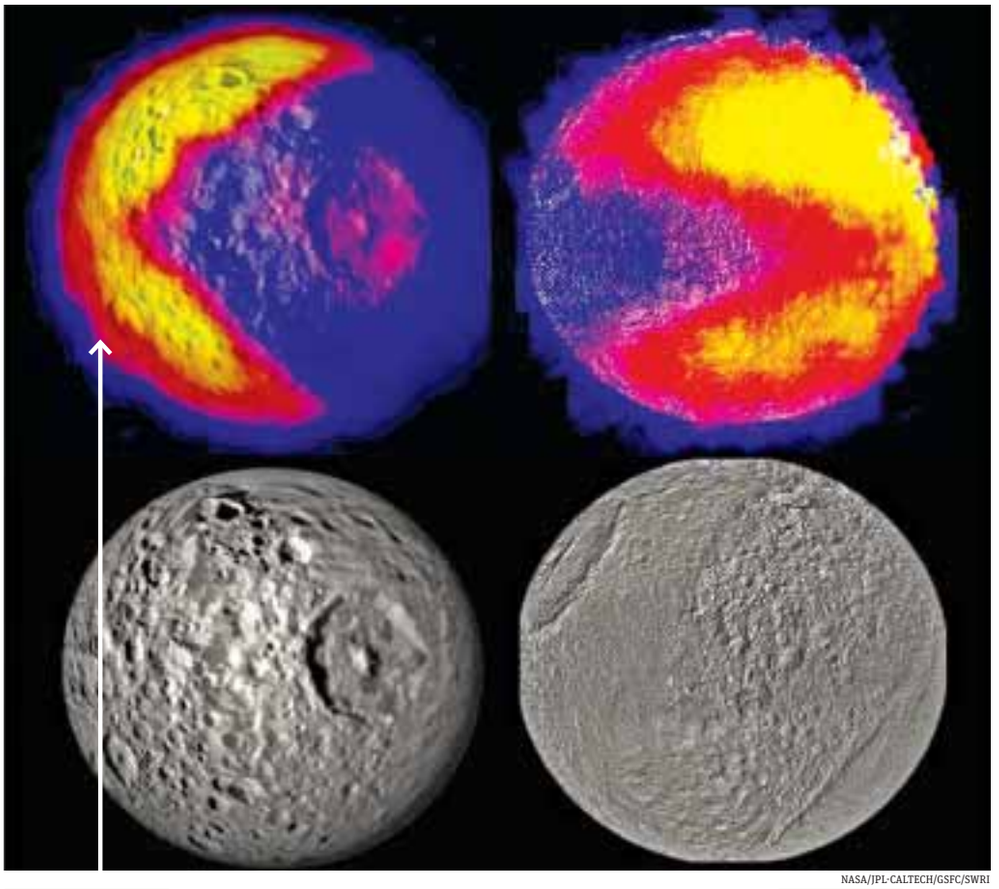
Now Etobicoke is going to start complaining that it's misunderstood.

Before that happens, we need to nip this epidemic in the bud. The only thing Rob Ford, Justin Bieber and Justin Trudeau don't understand is that the people (at least the leftists, haterz and Tories) are not fooled. They understand, only too well.

Except when it comes to me, of course.

Trudeau 2.0 THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pac-Man replays on moons



NASA/JPL-CALTECH/GSFC/SWRI

Space exploration

Video-game hero spotted in moons

NASA put a man on the moon in the 1960s — a few decades later Pac-Man appears on two of Saturn's moons. Scientists with the Cassini spacecraft mission have identified two features shaped like the 1980s video-game icon on moons of Saturn. One was observed on the moon Mimas, left, in 2010 and the latest was observed on the moon Tethys.

These remarkable infrared images measure the surface temperature of the two satellites. In a new report, researchers theorize that this distinctive pattern is the result of high-energy electrons colliding into low latitudes on the forward-facing sides moons as they orbit around Saturn. This bombardment transforms the normally "fluffy" surface into hard-packed ice, NASA said. METRO

Screenshot of the 1980 arcade game Pac-Man. NAMCO

Temperature

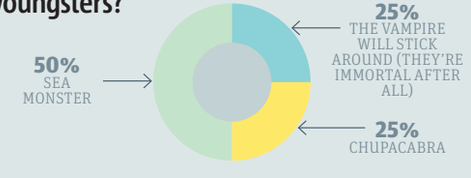
-185 C

is the warmest temperature recorded on the surface of Tethys in data obtained on Sept. 14. Daytime temperatures inside the mouth of Pac-Man were seen to be cooler than their surroundings by 1.6 C.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Now that the Twilight saga is over, what creature is set to capture the attention of the next generation of impressionable youngsters?



Twitter

@knownastron: So... The phone I got to replace my broken phone now isn't working either. Anyone have an old phone they can lend me?

@craigsilliphant: Hey FB users. Stop posting fake copyright crap! Can you please be skeptical of something that doesn't look legit for just two seconds?

@theotherhilary: I liked Saskatchewan better when we had less money and more compassion.

@majinjohnny: making a silly face and trying to drink coffee is bad idea.

@Jdpitman: Really disappointed that @Lydias-Pub dropped Red Hammer. Won't be going there much anymore.

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James Gandolfini plays a foul-mouthed hitman in Killing Them Softly. HANDOUT

James Gandolfini: I'm 'like a 260-pound Woody Allen'

Killing Them Softly. Hard to erase memories of Tony Soprano in new film

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Tony Soprano was one of the most recognizable television characters of the last decade, yet the man who breathed life into him, actor James Gandolfini, says, "I never think about him, ever."

He may not, but audiences do. It's difficult to see the burly actor in any other role without thinking about the troubled gangster he played on 86 episodes of The Sopranos.

This weekend, he plays a foul-mouthed hitman in Killing Them Softly, opposite Brad Pitt and Ray Liotta. Despite his powerful presence, the role likely won't do much to erase memories of Soprano.

The New-Jersey-born actor first earned notice playing — you guessed it — a hitman in Tony Scott's True Romance. Similar roles in movies like Get Shorty followed, but Gandolfini says he is nothing like the tough guy characters he so frequently plays.

Even though he once earned a living as a bouncer (he also delivered seltzer for a company called Gimme Seltzer) and has repeatedly unlocked a wellspring of rage on screen, he says, "I'm a neurotic mess. I'm really basically just like a 260-pound Woody Allen."

Perhaps that's what he tapped into when he voiced Carol, the impulsive creature in Where the Wild Things Are.

It's a sensitive performance that shows off Gandolfini's softer side. He does go on a "wild ruckus," but at least he doesn't shoot anybody.

In fact, we may soon see less and less of his badass side. "I'm getting a little older, you know," he says. "The running and the jumping and killing, it's a little past me."

In the dark indie Welcome to the Rileys (directed by Jake Scott, son of Ridley) he's unarmed, playing a troubled businessman whose life unravels when he befriends a stripper, played by Kristen Stewart.

In the Loop, a wild satire of British politics, saw Gandolfini take a detour into comedy, but his strangest movie came in 2010. Mint Julep was made in 1995 after Gandolfini had appeared in Terminal Velocity and Crimson Tide, but because of money issues it wasn't released until after The Sopranos was off the air. Noticeably thinner, and with more hair, he plays a perverted landlord opposite David Morse.

Yet another side of the actor can be seen in Alive Day: Home from Iraq, a documentary in which he interviews injured Iraq War veterans about the physical and emotional costs of war.

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James Bond villains should gang up on 007: Former villain

Mads Mikkelsen
GETTY IMAGES

When Mads Mikkelsen played Bond villain Le Chiffre in 2006's Casino Royale, his character met an untimely demise.

But the Danish actor jokes that if Le Chiffre could somehow be brought back to life and paired with Javier Bardem's malevolent Raoul Silva from the latest Bond instalment Skyfall, they might be able to take 007 down for good.

"I think the two of us together might be able to finally get him," Mikkelsen said Monday while promoting his new movie A Royal Affair.

"We could do something about that Bond character once and for all."

Mikkelsen has been in Toronto for the last few months shooting the upcoming TV series Hannibal, based on the famed Silence of the Lambs character. His son is attending school here and the actor is familiarizing himself with the city (he says he couldn't get tickets for Sunday's Grey Cup and ended up watching it on TV). One of Denmark's biggest heart-throbs, Mikkelsen says he's also found time to see Skyfall — and loved it.

"I thought it was brilliant," he said, adding that it would be "fun" to somehow return to the Bond franchise.

A Royal Affair — a sweeping period drama — is set to open Jan. 18 in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal. It's Denmark's entry in the foreign-language Oscar race. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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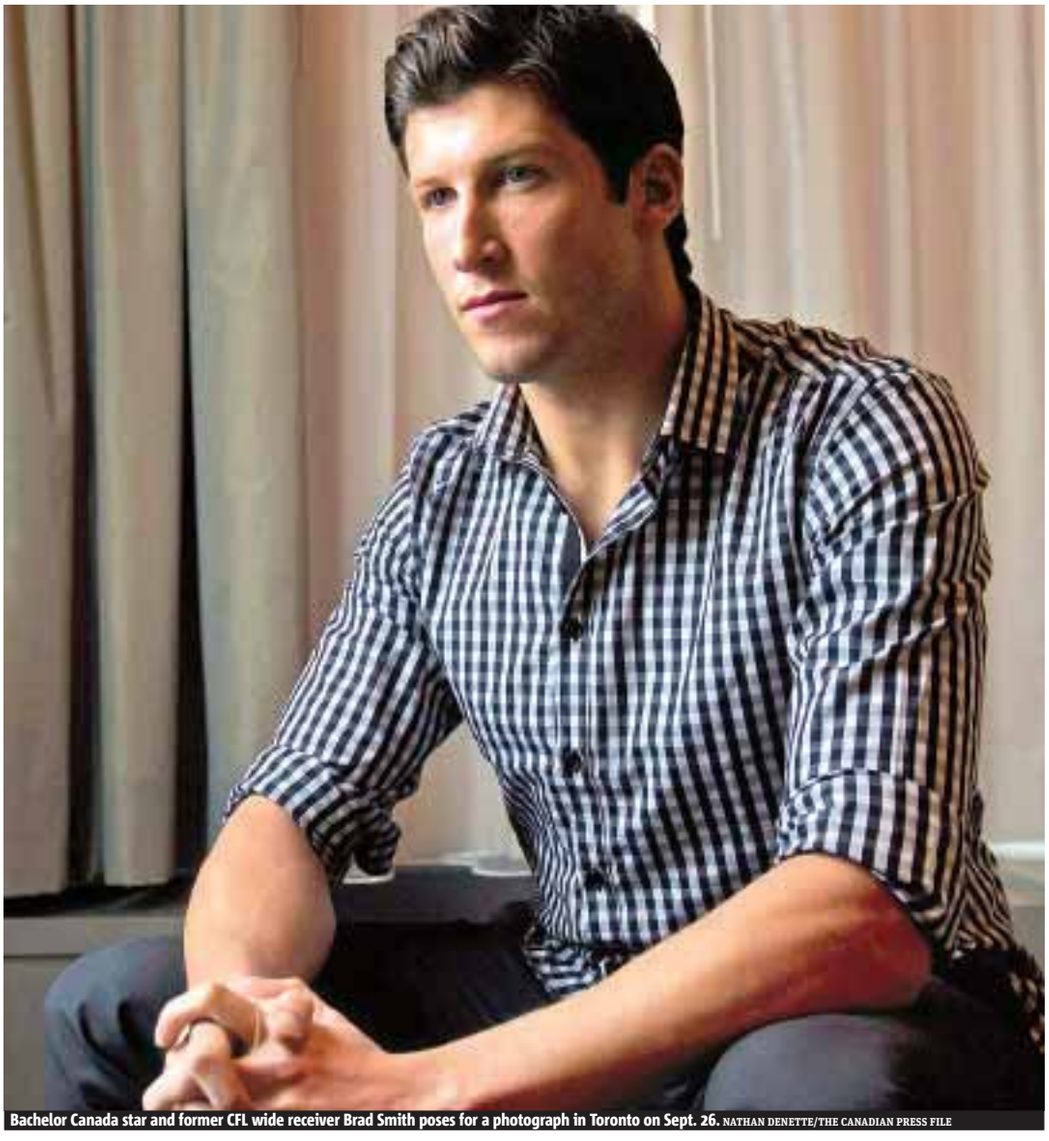

Bachelor Canada star and former CFL wide receiver Brad Smith poses for a photograph in Toronto on Sept. 26. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Life goes on After the Rose for Brad and Bianka

The Bachelor. Runner-up Whitney returns for final episode

Last week, Brad Smith made his choice on The Bachelor Canada. He proposed to Bianka, who eagerly accepted the rose. The 29-year-old registered nurse beat out 24 other women for a shot at marital bliss with the ex-CFL football player.

But what happens After the Rose? A peek behind the fairy tale romance can be seen Wednesday night in an hour-long final episode of the Citytv reality series.

The episode was taped a few weeks ago before 300 fans at the picturesque, seaside town of Sidney, B.C. It had been two months since Brad had actually proposed in Barbados. The two had not been allowed out in public together since then for fear of tipping off viewers. Their only contact, they both said, was through Skype

"I've already tried to marry her," Brad reveals right after the taping. He tried to convince Bianka to elope with him.

"To actually have a normal life, far from all this cloak and dagger stuff, would be awesome," said Smith, 29.

The two lovebirds seemed quite affectionate during and after the taping. Bianka marvelled at how much they have in common. They agree on everything, she says: "the favourite beer, the favourite wine, the favourite sandwich at Wendy's."

Suggestions that you can't find the love of your life over the course of an eight-week reality show were waved off as so much heard-it-before cynicism.

"To have an organic relationship from that experience is impossible, yet we have it," says Smith. "It was a TV show, yet it was so friggin' real."

Things can, however, get a little thorny after the rose. Smith says he was nervous coming face to face one last time with the turbulent runner-up, Whitney. The contestant from Calgary quickly became the villain of the series with all her "Brad's mine!" comments to the camera.

She's back and all glammed up for Wednesday's final confrontation. Smith doesn't exactly welcome her back. Instead, he does a lot of finger pointing. "I wanted everybody in Canada to see what I had to deal with the past four weeks," he said after the taping.

"She has a severe ability to jumble things up; it's truly frustrating to be around, especially when you just want an answer."

The studio audience gets into what shapes up to be a Springer moment. You half expect to hear cries of "Jerry! Jerry!"

"She's a polarizing figure, there's no question," says host Tyler Harcott, who referees the session, at times almost acting as if he was Whitney's therapist. "She brought a lot of that on herself. Unfortunately, she painted herself as the villain."

What worries Harcott is how the rep will follow the 24-year-old administrative assistant.

"The Twitter world, the Facebook world, that part breaks my heart," says Harcott. "I don't think people realize that these people aren't actors, they go to the coffee shop like the rest of us." THE CANADIAN PRESS

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie

Pitt and Jolie: Finally getting hitched?

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie may be finally making good on their engagement and getting married sooner rather than later. "I am getting more pressure from my kids, and it is something I want to do within their lifetime," he tells reporters at the Killing Them Softly premiere, according to Hollyscoop. "But I also feel like the time has come. The time is now. It's soon. I got a good feeling about it." And Pitt admits it's not just pressure from the kids that has him eager to tie the knot. It turns out he's into the idea as well: "We've had a family, we've raised the kids. I am surprised how much [marriage] meant to me once you had that," he says.

Rowling sells her Scotland home, makes a mint

J.K. Rowling is a bit of a wizard when it comes to real estate. The bestselling author recently sold the Edinburgh, Scotland home — where she wrote four of her seven Harry Potter novels — for $3.6 million after just three weeks on the market, according to People magazine. Rowling bought the top half of the home in 1999 and later bought the downstairs section and converted it into a single home with eight bedrooms, a walled garden and a detached office in the back. The buyer is an anonymous Scottish businessman.

J.K. Rowling

Twitter

@TheRealRoseanne
my deviled eggs are the best

@jason_mraz
yoga makes me fart.

@EvaLongoria
And the tree is unloaded and UP!

@SarahKSilverman
There should be an age limit on wearing those zig-zag Charlie Brown T-shirts

The Word

Today in celebrity lawsuits

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Celebrities. If they aren't getting divorced, they're getting sued. Here's a breakdown of the latest legal woes of your favourite stars.

While Halle Berry is hoping to make her temporary restraining order against ex Gabriel Aubry permanent following his bloody Thanksgiving row with her fiancé, Olivier Martinez, Aubry himself is reportedly seeking legal protection, according to TMZ. In his legal declaration following the incident, Aubry claims that Martinez threatened his life and used intimidating language the day before the fight, during a school play featuring Nahla, the daughter Berry and Aubry share. Aubry has been granted a restraining order of his own against Martinez.

The lawsuits just keep coming for Kevin Clash, the beleaguered ex-voice of Elmo. He's been slammed with a third accusation of having sex with an underage boy a week after a similar allegation prompted him to resign from Sesame Street. A man identified only as John Doe alleges Clash engaged in oral sex and other sex acts with him when he was 16 years old. The suit, which was filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, seeks at least $75,000 in damages, per Reuters.

A Katt Williams fan isn't just brushing off a terrible performance by the comedian — he's suing the star on behalf of everyone who had to witness it. This week, Brian Herline of Modesto, Calif., filed a class action lawsuit against Williams and Live Nation on behalf of the audience members who attended a Williams show at Oakland's Oracle Arena earlier this month. The San Francisco Chronicle reports that Williams went bonkers 10 minutes into his set, taking off all of his clothes and then challenging people to fight (sounds watchable to me). The gracious Herline is seeking class-action certification in an effort to get ticket money back for all audience members.

It's been a bad week for Justin Bieber. First, he was booed by a bunch of football fans for his halftime performance at the Grey Cup on Sunday, and now he has been hit with a $9.2 million lawsuit brought against him by Stacey Wilson Betts. Betts claims she lost her hearing "by a sound blast that exceeded safe decibel levels" at a Bieber concert two years ago. Two years is a long time to wait to file a lawsuit. Even fishier? She's representing herself. Bieber and his lawyers asked for the case to be dismissed, stating that Betts has a "failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted," which is legalese for "girlfriend is crazy."

And, finally, we're going to save the most beautiful and touching for last: Hulk Hogan and Bubba the Love Sponge have settled out of court regarding Hulk's lawsuit against Bubba over a sex tape scandal. Hogan sued his former friend and Bubba's ex-wife Heather Clem for taping him in sexual acts with Heather without his knowledge and consent. The terms of the settlement are confidential.

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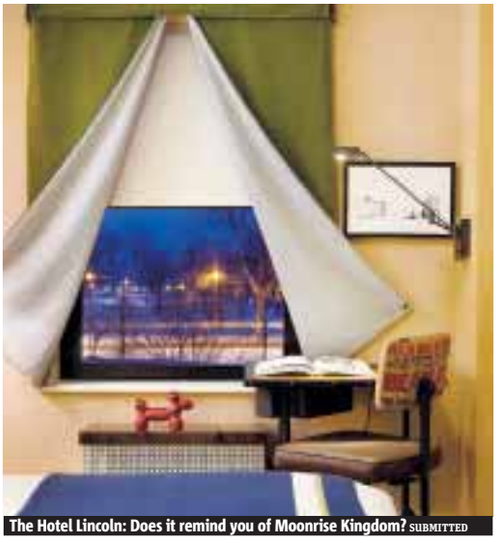
With Barack Obama back in the White House and Abraham Lincoln in movie theatres, we thought it was time to immerse ourselves in Chicago — a city with historic ties to both presidents. We visited Lincoln Park, Bucktown and Wicker Park to give you this best friend's guide to the north side of the city

METRO NEWS
life@metronews.ca

Dishing deep on Chicago

Bask in Americana nostalgia at the Hotel Lincoln. CONTRIBUTED



The Hotel Lincoln: Does it remind you of Moonrise Kingdom? SUBMITTED

Presidential digs

Online

For more, visit choosechicago.com

Stepping into the Hotel Lincoln is like walking onto the set of a Wes Anderson movie. The Midwest meets New England with golden yellows, foresty greens and a sense of quaint nostalgia reminiscent of the director's Moonrise Kingdom.

A number of the rooms feature curtains that open like the flaps of a tent, and patterned carpeting guides you through the hallways and suites. While it underwent extensive renovations before being opened by hotel operator Joie de Vivre early in 2012, the 12-storey building still retains its historic edge. The 184-room Lincoln has the feel of a boutique hotel with whimsical touches — like an eclectic wall of pictures and paintings leading from the lobby to the second floor, and a reception desk clad in drawer fronts. On the rooftop, an all-season bar offers sweeping views of Lake Michigan, North Avenue Beach and downtown Chicago. Off the lobby is Perennial Virant (perennialchicago.com), offering a seasonal menu and featuring pickled and canned ingredients purchased from local growers. (1816 North Clark St. jdvhotels.com.)

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Three things not to miss

Lunch

A popular spot in the neighbourhood, Nookies Restaurant (1746 North Wells St., nookiesrestaurants.net) is the perfect spot to enjoy a quick lunch or a hangover-battling Sunday breakfast. Have an appetite? Try the Crunchy French Toast, made from thick pieces of bread covered in cornflakes and powdered with sugar.

Prohibition

To get in touch with the city's more infamous history, walk a short distance from Hotel Lincoln to 2122 North Clark St., which was the site of the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre. It was at this address in 1929 that, at the height of prohibition, Al Capone's south Chicago gang murdered seven rival mob associates.

Architecture

Located at the southern end of Lincoln Park are the mansions and stately homes of the Gold Coast — an area where the rich built after the 1871 Chicago Fire. The Chicago History Museum offers an all-weather walking tour of the Gold Coast (chicagohs.org). Be sure to visit the Charnley-Persky House on North Astor Street, which was designed by Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright.

Escape the bustle of the city in Lincoln Park. ISTOCK

Do some gorilla watching at the Lincoln Park Zoo. ISTOCK

Lincoln Park

Before leaving Hotel Lincoln, grab a coffee from Elaine's Coffee Call. Located off the lobby, the small café is named after a former hotel telephone operator, who at night would call up former hotel mainstay and famed playwright David Mamet to see if he wanted an evening drink. The walls of Elaine's are covered with multiple layers of dog-eared wallpaper made even more interesting with coffee beans rubbed onto them with a brick. It makes the place feel well-loved, well-used and timeless.

Across the street from the hotel is Lincoln Park, a more than 1,200-acre retreat from the city nestled on the edge of Lake Michigan. Locals stroll and jog through the more than 25 kilometres of trails in this urban get away. Near the park centre is Lincoln Park Zoo (lpzoo.org), a free facility featuring a menagerie of creatures, from sea lions to land lions. The animals are like an extended family for locals, who can stroll through at any time and watch as the babies — including two recently born gorillas — grow up.

Bucktown and Wicker Park

Located west of Lincoln Park, both neighbourhoods have seen a resurgence in recent years as established residents and young families mix with students and hipsters. Before you start exploring, grab lunch at Big Star (1531 North Damen Ave., bigstarchicago.com), a whiskey and taco eatery just past the Damen L transit station.

Across the street from Big Star is The Violet Hour (1520 North Damen Ave., theviolethour.com). The lounge has a nearly hidden entrance and speakeasy feel. A house rule helps to achieve this — cellphones are left at the door!

End your day by grabbing dinner at The Bristol (2152 North Damen Ave., thebristolchicago.com), an award-winning Bucktown restaurant. GQ named the eatery one of the 10 best new restaurants in America, and with its extensive wine list and seasonal-based creations, it's easily worthy of the title.

GQ named The Bristol one of the 10 best new restaurants in the U.S., so it's worth a visit if you find yourself in Bucktown. SUBMITTED

Grab lunch at Big Star. VERITATEM/FLICKR

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To wrap or not to wrap this shrimp, avocado and feta combo

Shrimp, Avocado and Feta Wrap

This recipe serves eight. Present it in a wrap or a bowl. RYAN SZULC, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S FAMILY FAVORITES (WHITECAP BOOKS)

ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit
rosereisman.com

You can substitute baby cocktail shrimp if you don't have the larger ones. Also, be sure to seed the tomatoes first to avoid excess liquid.

Keeping some or all of the shrimp whole makes a lovely presentation. Corn kernels are a nice addition to the filling.

If you are serving these to guests, let them assemble the wraps themselves.

1. Lightly coat a nonstick skillet with vegetable spray and set over medium-high heat. Add the shrimp and grill just until no longer pink, about 3 minutes, turning halfway through. Remove from the heat and let cool slightly. Dice the shrimp and place in a large mixing bowl.

2. Add the tomatoes, avocado, cilantro, red onion, feta, olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, jalapeño, salt and pepper.

Ingredients

- 6 oz raw shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 1/2 cups chopped plum tomatoes
- 1/2 cup chopped avocado
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 2 tbsp chopped red onion
- 1/3 cup crumbled light feta cheese (about 1 1/2 oz)
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1 tsp finely chopped jalapeño pepper (or 1 tsp hot chili sauce)
- pinch of salt and pepper
- 4 large whole lettuce leaves
- 4 large whole wheat flour tortillas

3. Place 1 lettuce leaf on each of the 4 tortillas and divide the shrimp mixture evenly among the tortillas, spreading it to about 1/4 inch from the edges. Fold in the sides of the tortillas and roll up. Cut each in half and serve. ROSE REISMAN'S FAMILY FAVORITES (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Drink of the Week

Orange Cosmo Crush

Before the final leaves fall off the trees, celebrate autumn one last time with this fun adult drink that's perfect for parties.

- 15 ml (1/2 oz) Drambuie
- 30 ml (1 oz) orange-flavoured vodka
- Juiced 1/2 orange
- Ice

Half-fill a mixing tin with ice and add Drambuie, vodka and orange juice. Shake until tin is frosted and strain into a martini glass.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ DRAMBUIE LIQUEUR

Treat them to savoury Two-Bite Tourtières

A recent Tenderflake survey revealed that one in five Canadians consider tourtière their favourite savoury pie.

Inspired by the classic French Canadian favourite, these mini versions are perfect for gatherings.

Save yourself time on the day of your event by baking these pies ahead of time and freezing them in an airtight container. Once needed, simply defrost, reheat for 5 to 10 minutes and serve.

1. Defrost tart shells according to package directions. Place on baking sheet.

2. Preheat the oven to 350 F (180 C).

3. Crumble pork into a large, nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Cook, breaking the meat into small pieces with a wooden spoon, until browned. Drain off any excess fat.

4. Add onion, carrot, garlic, salt, celery seed, pepper, allspice and cloves. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes. Stir in cider and potatoes; reduce heat and simmer, stirring occasionally for 5 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat; cool to room temperature.

5. Divide pork mixture evenly between tarts shells.

Ingredients

- 1 package (18) Tenderflake Frozen Mini Tart Shells
- 1/2 lb (250 g) lean ground pork
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 carrot, finely grated
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp (5 ml) salt
- 3/4 tsp (3 ml) celery seed
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) ground pepper
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) allspice
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) ground cloves
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) apple cider
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) mashed potatoes

6. Bake on lowest rack, for 30 to 35 minutes or until golden brown.

NEWS CANADA/ TENDERFLAKE

This recipe serves nine. NEWS CANADA

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A recruiter's guide to the attention-grab

Remember my name. Walk into each interview with an arsenal of successful strategies

KELSEY GOFORTH
TalentEgg.ca

Take the time to think for a moment before you speak and prepare a concise answer to the question asked. ISTOCK

I work as a recruiter, meaning I assist my company in finding people that fit with our company culture, convey a passion for what we do and, most importantly, have the potential to take on the roles that we hire for.

With hundreds of applicants each week and a commitment to speak to each and every one of them, I have been exposed to both outstanding as well as disappointing job seekers.

Each day, I conduct phone interviews where I speak to a handful of impressive applicants.

They answer the phone excited about the prospect of a new position and relay back to me information they researched about the company, asking for clarification along the way.

Unfortunately, they are the minority. Most applicants have neglected to do so much as a quick Google search about the company. They answer the phone, neither thanking me for getting in touch with them nor displaying any interest or excitement about what I'm telling them.

A surprising number of people fail to follow simple guidelines, severely lowering their likelihood of getting hired. These are my top three tips for how students and recent grads can impress recruiters like me:

Squeeze out a smile

"Whether the interview is for your dream job or just to make some money during your summer holidays, show some enthusiasm."
Kelsey Goforth

Be enthusiastic

If you are being contacted by the company you applied with, you should be quite grateful. I have applied to dozens of jobs over the past few years and never got so much as an email thanking me for my application for most of them. If a company has taken the time to contact you and give you a chance, be excited! Whether the interview is for your dream job or just to make some money during your summer holidays, show some enthusiasm.

Know why you want this particular job

Take the time to research the company and position. Having some background knowledge will make your interview go much more smoothly. The more you know about a company's history and objectives, the more likely you will be able to connect yourself and your experiences to the role you are applying for.

Make connections

To get an interview started, I often ask applicants to tell me a bit about their work experience. Oftentimes, they rhyme off their past few years of work without actually telling me the most important part of these experiences. Take the time to point out specific responsibilities you had or skills you developed through the jobs you held.

Saying you had a customer service job is far more impressive if you add in the fact that you were able to sharpen your communication skills and your ability to stay focused under pressure, or that you often assisted management with more advanced duties, such as ordering new merchandise.

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Student voice

So much more than a certificate on the wall

May Yu
Graduate
Bachelor of Business Administration
Simon Fraser University
TalentEgg.ca

May Yu PROVIDED

At the end of my five years at Simon Fraser University, I received a bachelor in business administration and honours in marketing and management information systems. It was very exciting, and the certificate is proudly displayed in my parents' den. But that is not definitive of my time at SFU. Instead, the out-of-classroom elements, including three co-ops, case competitions both local and abroad, an academic exchange at Tsinghua University in Beijing and a community development internship in Brazil, have defined my past five years. It is those elements of my university experience that have made me more competitive in the business world and allowed me to secure a role with Procter & Gamble one year prior to my graduation.

What I'm doing now

After I signed with P&G in November 2011, I graduated from SFU in April 2012 and travelled to Southeast Asia with my friends, followed by a two-month volunteer internship via SFU AIESEC, a student-run exchange group, in the south of Brazil. I am now working at P&G Canada in Toronto as an assistant brand manager.

My advice for employers, schools and career centres

For business students attending school on the west coast who are looking for careers in eastern Canada, it will be more of a challenge, as not all prospective companies actively recruit on the west coast. However, that allows students who are more engaged in the job-hunting process to step outside of the typical recruit process and actively seek for informational interviews/referrals from their networks such as alumni, career centres, and past co-op employers. I encourage employers, career centres, and schools alike to bridge the recruitment gap and ensure that the west coast is represented when the Ontario-based companies go through their annual recruits. Schools with strong alumni networks, co-op programs and formal recruits with job postings/deadlines will really help prospective grads focus their energies on companies which are actively recruiting.

My advice for students

When I reflect upon my past five years, co-ops and case competitions have undoubtedly honed my career-oriented acumen and skills. However, my most memorable experiences would be my exchanges. From my exchanges in China and Brazil, I have emerged as more of a global citizen, with a better understanding of myself and where I want to be. I made friends with people from across the globe, I learned a new language, a new culture and I made an impact with those who I volunteered with.

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Thursday , November 29—2:00-3:00 pm
at
Canada-Saskatchewan Labour Market Services
225-1st Avenue N. , Saskatoon, SK
Praxis—306-664-0500

Fall not from your social media slip-ups

Avoid being a Twit.
Take a serious pause before you push that send button

ASHLEIGH TRAHAN
TalentEgg.ca

Assume that anyone and everyone will see your LinkedIn and Twitter accounts, and act accordingly. ISTOCK

Before you post that picture of yourself doing body shots during your Cancun spring break, I would like to offer you some friendly advice on how potential employers might interpret your online behaviour.

You need to make sure that you are projecting the best possible image to future employers, in case anyone who's thinking about hiring you takes a quick second to Google your name.

People will be assessing what you've posted to see if there are any photos, videos or all-caps-irrational-ranting that raises a red flag about your judgment, awareness or intelligence.

A few common sense tips can ensure that you come across as employable:

Lock it down
The first and most important commandment of personal social media management is understanding who you are sharing your personal information with.

If you choose to add your professional contacts to Facebook, you can either keep things PG or change your security settings to only allow certain posts to be visible to your professional network.

This involves a certain degree of common sense. Every industry is different in terms of their tolerance for your shenanigans via social media. For example, if you work at a creative start-up company, your boss's views on your mid-workday posts of cat memes will be different than if you work at a Bay Street law firm. Investigate how your peers or colleagues are using social media, and follow their lead.

Think before you tweet ... about how bad your job is
I've seen far too many catastrophes caused by careless tweets. We've all witnessed heat-of-the-moment tweets about someone's failing love life and epic drinking plans (please, spare us), but I especially urge caution when it comes to social posts about your job.

It only takes one tweet along the lines of, "This job is S— and everyone here is a B—" to get you fired.

The same applies if you decide to resign. Take a moment to reflect on how rejoicing publicly about your departure from your current boss, job or co-workers could appear. Perhaps your boss is in fact an evil fascist, and maybe your co-workers do give new meaning to the word psycho, but griping about work is never a good idea.

Regardless of the situation, it can make you look like a whiner and/or jerk.

Be truthful and consistent
Now that your social profiles (especially LinkedIn) are out there for anyone and everyone to see, you need to ensure you are telling a truthful, consistent story about yourself.

If your LinkedIn profile doesn't match up to your resume, that will raise red flags and will quickly torpedo potential opportunities. Take the same care in putting together an online profile as you would your resumé.

Maintain your personality and use it to your professional advantage
While you might think I would advocate for being a passionless yuppie robot on your social media profiles, that's not the case. Having a life outside of work makes you an interesting, well-rounded person, so maintain your unique qualities and pursuits in full view (as long as your pursuits are of the legal variety).

Remember to take the time to post updates about news and trends related to your industry. This will work to your advantage by showcasing your knowledge and interest in your field to potential employers.

Overall, it's critical that you avoid sharing anything on social media that could give the impression that you lack judgment, are irresponsible or should potentially be thrown in an asylum. Everyone lets their hair down once in a while; just have the good sense not to post the evidence on Instagram.

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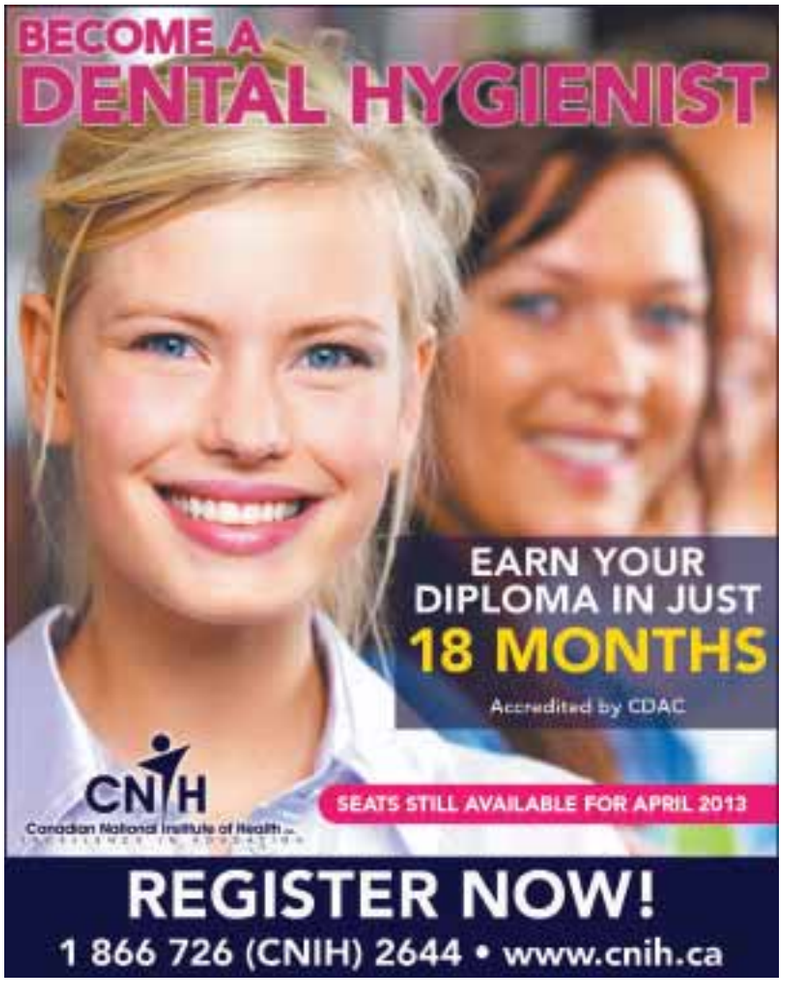
Social savvy

Ditch the cheesy Twitter handle

- I cannot tell you how many times I've seen resumés and email signature blocks that feature outrageously inappropriate email addresses, blog URLs or Twitter handles. You should be showcasing the best possible image to potential employers and @lovemonkey1990 is sending all the wrong messages.
- Sticking to your name is safest, but if you choose to use a nickname, make it something that wouldn't make your grandma blush.



Winter tires save money and lives

Feel that cold air? It won't be long now until we're all dealing with sub-zero temperatures and wind chill that takes your breath away. While we can all agree that the prospect of winter can be pretty miserable, being prepared and taking the necessary precautions in advance of the ice and snow is ideal. And one of the best ways of doing this is by switching to winter tires.

But according to a recent Canadian Tire survey, a majority of drivers in Ontario, the Prairies and British Columbia choose not to install winter tires, mistakenly believing that all-season tires offer adequate safety.

The evidence says otherwise. In winter condition tests, Transport Canada and the Rubber Association of Canada found that stopping was 30 to 40 per cent longer with all-season compared to winter tires. In cornering, vehicles with all-season tires went off the testing track at speeds of only 40 to 50 km/h, while the vehicles equipped with winter tires had no problem. The results were consistent with front-, rear- and all-wheel vehicles.

The reason why snow tires are the most effective at preventing accidents is because they have deeper, specially designed treads and are made of innovative rubber compounds that are softer and more pliant. NEWS CANADA

The experts from Desjardins General Insurance (DGI) agree that winter tires are designed to save lives.

"What's interesting is that many people who live in snow-belt regions across the country recognize the need for them," said DGI spokesperson Joe Daly.

"But some drivers in urban regions don't see the need to switch. The fact is we've all experienced those icy mornings when you're rushing to work or school and the salt trucks just haven't made it to your neighbourhood yet. These conditions are much more dangerous than just plain snow and having the right tires can keep everyone safe."

The reason why these tires are the most effective at preventing accidents is because they have deeper, specially designed treads and are made of innovative rubber compounds that are softer and more pliant. This allows them to perform better on ice, snow and slush, but also in both dry and wet conditions when the temperature dips below 7 C.

Daly also suggests that it's important to keep an eye on your tires' air pressure. "Overnight temperatures can drop from 5 C to –15 C and this rapid reduction can zap the air out of you tires by as much as four psi (pounds per square inch). An under-inflated tire can be quite dangerous, so it's important to keep tracking your tire pressure."

Having a safe winter is a great reason to equip your car with the best tires. Transport Canada suggests that "winter tires marked with the pictograph of a peaked mountain with a snowflake meet specific snow traction performance requirements, and have been designed specifically for use in winter conditions."

Another incentive is that some insurance companies like DGI will reward their clients who use winter tires with a discount on their auto insurance. NEWS CANADA

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EHC Biel's Tyler Seguin takes the ice for a game against the Rapperswil-Jona Lakers on Sept. 29 in Biel, Switzerland.

PETER SCHNEIDER/KEYSTONE/THE CANADIAN PRESS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seguin finds next gear in Switzerland

Hockey. Locked-out forward taking game to new level overseas

It is awfully hard to miss Tyler Seguin these days.

Not only is the locked-out NHL forward tearing up the Swiss hockey league, he's doing it in style. Seguin stands out among his EHC Biel teammates on the ice because of the bright yellow helmet he wears — an honour bestowed on the top-scoring player for each team in Switzerland.

The 20-year-old has been an offensive force with 20 goals in 20 games, making him the most productive NHLer plying his trade in a league that includes Jason Spezza, Joe Thornton, Rick Nash, John Tavares and Logan Couture, among others.

In fact, Seguin has even managed to exceed his own expectations so far.

"I had no idea what to expect when I came to Switzerland," he told the Tages-Anzeiger newspaper recently. "The league is very competitive — the speed and the talent level of the players has surprised me. It took me some time and effort to get used to it."

The trip abroad has also come with new opportunities. After seasons of 22 and 67 points with the Boston Bruins, it was reasonable to expect that Seguin would have made another leap forward during his third year in the NHL.

However, he likely wouldn't have been relied upon by Boston as much as he is in Biel, where he's been used in virtually every situation. Over the weekend against Bern, he blocked a shot while killing a penalty and scored on a short-handed breakaway.

Seguin has seen limited penalty-kill action in the NHL and made reference to his new role on Twitter on Monday: "Got a short handed goal the other night. Wonder if @NHLBruins will see it. #blockshots"

Seguin was one of the first players to sign in Europe once the work stoppage came into effect back in September. Asked by Swiss journalists recently why he chose Biel, he replied: "I just wanted to play hockey." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Scoring goals is never easy; I didn't do very well at the beginning. Now I just hope to continue playing well like I have been lately."

EHC Biel forward Tyler Seguin

By the numbers

3

Tyler Seguin has scored three hat tricks in his first 20 games with EHC Biel.

Elsewhere in Europe

Patrik Berglund

Vasteras (Sweden): Berglund is giving his hometown team more than its money's worth. The St. Louis Blues centre chose to play for free in an effort to give back to the organization that helped him reach the NHL. Berglund has 16 goals and 25 points in 20 games.

Jaromir Jagr

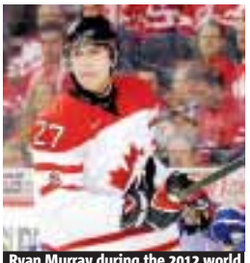
HC Kladno (Czech Republic): Is there anything the 40-year-old can't do? Already the owner and president of his hometown team, Jagr is also its leading scorer with 36 points in 22 games. That is the highest total of any locked-out NHLer currently in Europe.

Paul Bissonnette

Cardiff Devils (Great Britain): Known primarily as a fighter with the Phoenix Coyotes, Bissonnette is an offensive star a few rungs below the NHL in Cardiff, where he put up six goals and 16 points in his first seven games. Surprisingly, the six-foot-three heavyweight has yet to drop his gloves and fight.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Regina's Murray shelved for season with hurt shoulder



Ryan Murray during the 2012 world junior championship in Calgary.

GETTY IMAGES FILE

Regina's Ryan Murray is expected to miss the rest of the season with a shoulder injury, delivering a blow to Canada's world junior team.

The 19-year-old Everett Silvertips captain suffered a torn labrum in his left shoulder after taking a hit while playing Victoria on Nov. 16. On Tuesday, it was revealed the injury will require surgery that will sideline Murray for six months.

The defenceman was the second overall pick of the Columbus Blue Jackets earlier this year and was expected to challenge for a spot on the NHL team as soon as the lockout ended.

He had two goals and 17 points in 23 games for the Silvertips this season.

Murray represented Canada at last year's world junior championship and would likely have been a key member of the team that competes in Ufa, Russia, next month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHL

Blades overcome Canes at home

Darren Dietz scored the winning goal early in the third period as the Saskatoon Blades rallied to defeat the Lethbridge Hurricanes 5-3 on Tuesday.

Brenden Walker scored twice for the Blades (12-12-1), while Nick Zajac and Matej Stransky also had goals.

Sam Mckechnie, Ryan Pilon and Jaimen Yakubowski scored for Lethbridge (13-13-3).

Mckechnie opened the scoring a minute into the game with his 11th of the year.

Zajac tied it up two minutes into the second but the Hurricanes regained the lead when Yakubowski scored at 4:07 and Pilon made it 3-1 two minutes later.

Walker kicked off the Blades' rally with a goal midway through the second.

Stransky tied it with a short-handed goal at 3:34 of the third period and Dietz put Saskatoon ahead for good with a power-play goal two minutes later.

Walker added an empty-netter to seal the win.

Andrey Makarov made 22 saves for the Blades, while Ty Rimmer stopped 20 shots at the other end.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Argos host rare championship party in Toronto

Quarterback Ricky Ray waves to fans as he and his Argonauts teammates take part in a parade celebrating their Grey Cup victory on Tuesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANDIAN PRESS

Victory celebration. Boatmen parade Grey Cup in streets following win over Stamps in title game

Chad Owens danced onstage with his young son while Jalil Carter rode shirtless in the back of a pickup truck sipping from a Tim Hortons cup, and Adriano Belli planted a smooch on Toronto's embattled mayor.

Cornerback Evan McCollough arrived late, running to catch up to the parade at Yonge Street.

The Argonauts and their fans celebrated a rare treat Tuesday — a championship party in their own backyard.

And all the crazy antics culminated with the common refrain of "Repeat!" from a CFL team and its fans that could certainly get used to winning.

"All the ups, the downs, the stretches we went through, when we lost five out of six games, just knowing that we stuck together, persevered through and never lost sight of our dream and our goal and we made it through," said Owens, the slotback who won the league's most outstanding player award this season.

"It's so special. The 100th Grey Cup. In our city. Never going to forget that."

The Argonauts paraded the venerable trophy through downtown Toronto, arriving at Nathan Phillips Square to a festive lunchtime crowd of several thousand to celebrate Sunday's 35-22 victory over the Calgary Stampeders in the 100th Grey Cup.

Fans — clad in jerseys and tuques in the Argos' double blue — lined the streets and packed into the square in celebration of the city's first championship since 2004, which was also won by the Argos.

"This is awesome," said quarterback Ricky Ray. "It feels like a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Not everybody gets to win the Grey Cup, and experience what we got to today, and just to come here and share it with our fans is awesome."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"This is what you call a dream come true, folks. We said they could do it and they did it."

Mayor Rob Ford. Ford was greeted with a mix of boos and cheers at the parade, one day after a judge ordered him removed from office on conflict-of-interest charges.

Argos slotback Chad Owens rides through downtown Toronto on Tuesday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford grabs the Grey Cup on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Baseball

Controversial trio on HOF ballots

Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa are set to show up on the Hall of Fame ballot for the first time, and fans will soon find out whether drug allegations block the former stars from reaching baseball's shrine.

The ballot will be announced Wednesday.

Craig Biggio, Mike Piazza and Curt Schilling are certain to be among the other first-time eligibles. Jack Morris, Jeff Bagwell and Tim Raines are the top holdover candidates.

Longtime members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America (BBWAA) will vote through next month. The results will be announced Jan. 9, with players needing to be listed on 75 per cent of the ballots to gain induction.

The upcoming election is certain to fuel the most polarizing hall debate since Pete Rose's betting problems put him on baseball's permanently ineligible list, barring him from the BBWAA ballot.

Bonds, Clemens and Sosa each posted some of the biggest numbers in the game's history, but were all tainted by accusations that they used performance-enhancing drugs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA. Raptors suffer 5th straight loss in Houston

James Harden scored 24 points and matched a career high with 12 assists to lead the Houston Rockets over the Toronto Raptors 117-101 on Tuesday night.

Patrick Patterson added 22 points for the Rockets, who have won four in a row. Omer Asik had 13 points and 18 rebounds.

Andrea Bargnani scored 21 points and Terrence Ross added a career-high 19 for the Raptors, who have lost five straight.

The Rockets planned to fly to Minneapolis immediately after the game to attend Wednesday's funeral for Sasha McHale, the 23-year-old daughter of coach Kevin McHale. Sasha McHale died on Saturday from complications of lupus.

The team will then fly from Minneapolis to Oklahoma City to face the Thunder on Wednesday night — Harden's first game there since he was traded to Houston on Oct. 27.

Jeremy Lin had 16 points and 10 assists for Houston. Lin went 7 for 9 from the field, his best shooting game of the season. He was 6 for 12 from the field in Friday night's win over New York.

Bargnani kept Toronto close for a while, starting 7 for 9 from the field and hitting three three-pointers in the first half. The Rockets shot 51 per cent (26 of 51) in the half and led 61-51 at the break.

Raptor Kyle Lowry, who played for Houston from 2009-12, got supportive applause when he was introduced before the game.

He finished with seven points on 3-for-10 shooting.

The Rockets recognized Sasha McHale's death with a moment of silence before the announcement of the starting lineups. Players wore green bands on their jerseys.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

James Harden scored 24 points and had 12 assists vs. the Raptors. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tough court

The Raptors have lost six straight games in Houston.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	10	3	.769	—
Brooklyn	9	4	.692	1
New York	9	4	.692	1
Milwaukee	7	5	.583	2½
Atlanta	8	4	.667	1½
Philadelphia	8	6	.571	2½
Boston	8	6	.571	2½
Charlotte	7	6	.538	3
Chicago	6	7	.462	4
Indiana	6	8	.429	4½
Orlando	5	8	.385	5
Detroit	4	11	.267	7
Toronto	**3**	**11**	**.214**	**7½**
Cleveland	3	12	.250	8
Washington	0	12	.000	9½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	10	2	.833	—
San Antonio	12	3	.800	½
Oklahoma City	11	4	.733	½
Golden State	8	6	.571	3
L.A. Clippers	8	6	.571	3
Utah	8	7	.533	3½
Denver	8	7	.533	3½
Dallas	7	7	.500	4
L.A. Lakers	7	7	.500	4
Phoenix	7	8	.467	4½
Houston	6	7	.462	4½
Portland	6	8	.429	5
Minnesota	5	7	.417	5
New Orleans	4	9	.308	6½
Sacramento	4	9	.308	6½

Tuesday's results
Phoenix 91 Cleveland 78
Dallas at Philadelphia
Toronto at Houston
Minnesota at Sacramento
Indiana at L.A. Lakers
Monday's games — All Times Eastern
San Antonio 118 Washington 92
Brooklyn 96 New York 89 OT
Detroit 108 Portland 101
Oklahoma City 114 Charlotte 69
Memphis 84 Cleveland 78
Milwaukee 93 Chicago 92
Utah 105 Denver 103
New Orleans 105 L.A. Clippers 98
Wednesday's games
San Antonio at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Portland at Washington, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Memphis, 8 p.m.
New York at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Houston at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Utah at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

NFL — WEEK 13

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	3	0	.727	407	244
Miami	5	6	0	.455	211	226
N.Y. Jets	4	7	0	.364	221	290
Buffalo	4	7	0	.364	243	319
SOUTH						
Houston	10	1	0	.909	327	211
Indianapolis	7	4	0	.636	230	273
Tennessee	4	7	0	.364	238	335
Jacksonville	2	9	0	.182	188	308
NORTH						
Baltimore	9	2	0	.818	283	219
Pittsburgh	6	5	0	.545	231	210
Cincinnati	6	5	0	.545	282	247
Cleveland	3	8	0	.273	209	248
WEST						
Denver	8	3	0	.727	318	221
San Diego	4	7	0	.364	245	237
Oakland	3	8	0	.273	218	356
Kansas City	1	10	0	.091	161	301

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	4	0	.636	305	226
Washington	5	6	0	.455	295	285
Dallas	5	6	0	.455	242	262
Philadelphia	3	8	0	.273	184	282
SOUTH						
Atlanta	10	1	0	.909	294	216
Tampa Bay	6	5	0	.545	310	254
New Orleans	5	6	0	.455	308	304
Carolina	3	8	0	.273	214	265
NORTH						
Chicago	8	3	0	.727	277	175
Green Bay	7	4	0	.636	273	245
Minnesota	6	5	0	.545	248	249
Detroit	4	7	0	.364	267	280
WEST						
San Francisco	8	2	1	.773	276	155
Seattle	6	5	0	.545	219	185
St. Louis	4	6	1	.409	205	254
Arizona	4	7	0	.364	180	227

Thursday's game — All Times Eastern
New Orleans at Atlanta, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
Arizona at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Chicago, 1 p.m.
New England at Miami, 1 p.m.
Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
Cleveland at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
Cincinnati at San Diego, 4:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 4:25 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, December 3
N.Y. Giants at Washington, 8:30 p.m.

AHL

Tuesday's result
Texas at Rockford
Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
St. John's at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
Hershey at Norfolk, 7:15 p.m.
Rockford at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Thursday's games
Oklahoma City at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
Friday's games
Springfield at Manchester, 7 p.m.
Bridgeport at Hershey, 7 p.m.
Binghamton at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
St. John's at Albany, 7 p.m.
Texas at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Worcester at Portland, 7 p.m.
Connecticut at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
Syracuse at W-B/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.
Toronto at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
San Antonio at Lake Erie, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
Hamilton at Abbotsford, 10 p.m.

NCAA

AP TOP 25

Friday's games — All Times Eastern
Pac-12 Championship
No. 8 Stanford vs. No. 17 UCLA, 8 p.m.
MAC Championship — At Detroit
No. 18 Kent St. vs. No. 19 Northern Ill., 7 p.r
Saturday's games
No. 7 Kansas St. vs. No. 23 Texas, 8 p.m.
No. 12 Oklahoma at Texas Christian, 12 p.r
No. 16 Oregon St. vs. Nicholls St., 2:30 p.m
No. 24 Oklahoma St. at Baylor, 12 p.m.
No. 25 Boise St. at Nevada, 3:30 p.m.
SEC Championship — At Atlanta
No. 2 Alabama vs. No. 3 Georgia, 4 p.m.
ACC Championship — At Charlotte, N.C.
No. 13 Florida St. vs. Georgia Tech, 8 p.m.
Big 10 Championship — At Indianapolis
No. 14 Nebraska vs. Wisconsin, 8:15 p.m.

Buying your first car is one of life's most important purchases, so make sure you make the right choice. HANDOUT

Think you're ready to buy? Choose your first car with care

Price out your options. Avoid a hurried purchase and weigh up whether a rental or permanent buy is your best option heading into the future

EMMA GODMERE
Drive@metronews.ca

Just picture it: It's been a long time coming, but you're in your first car with nothing in front of you but the open road.

Purchasing your first car is likely one of the biggest purchases you're ever going to make, second only to buying your first home.

But before you start to shop around for your dream car, there are several things to consider. Should you go for new or used? And is it smarter to buy or lease?

Different options are going to work for different people, advises Silvana Aceto, spokesperson for CAA South Central Ontario.

"Look at how often you're going to be using this vehicle and how far you're going to be driving," she says.

If you're planning on driving long distances regularly, you may want to consider buying to sidestep mileage restrictions that come with leasing.

On the other hand, leasing means lower monthly payments and the opportunity to trade in for a new model every three or four years.

Aceto recommends making the effort to price out your options. Many car companies have online tools that will help illustrate the cost differences between leasing and buying their vehicles.

Resources such as the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada and Consumer Reports also offer more information about makes and models as you figure out which kind of car will best fit your lifestyle, while the Canadian Black Book is an ideal guide for anyone considering used cars.

There are key pros and cons involved in purchasing a used vehicle. "You have to consider that you could be buying someone else's problems," warns Aceto.

New cars, however, will likely require fewer repairs in the first few years of ownership and are also supported by manufacturer's warranties.

But buying used might be easier on your wallet. "Typically, you pay less to insure a used vehicle as opposed to a brand new vehicle," she says.

Ultimately, when it comes to shopping for insurance and finding your ideal car, extensive research is your best friend.

"There is plenty of homework, research and legwork involved, but it will pay off in the end," says Aceto. "Take your time because this is an expensive purchase, and you don't want it to be an impulse buy."

Start sharing

Life questions. This is the third in a week-long series of articles chronicling some of the rites of passage many of Metro's readers will experience as they leave the nest or school and head out on their own.

- **Question.** Do you remember your first car or are you planning on buying your first one? Maybe you have some tips.
- **Share.** Visit metronews.ca/features/firsts, tweet us or even turn to the person next to you and share your stories.

That magical moment. HANDOUT

Smart steps to take before you buy

- **Talk to family and friends.** Chances are, they're car owners too and will be able to recommend models and dealers they've used in the past.
- **Check your credit history.** New car owners will likely require loans to support their purchase. Doing your own credit check before you visit dealerships ensures your credit score won't dip from running too many inquiries on your credit report.
- **Take a test drive.** Once you have your choices narrowed down to a few cars, take them out for a spin. "Make sure that you take the vehicle out for 30 to 40 minutes on routes that you would normally drive," Aceto suggests.

The best time to buy is nigh ...

Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

What do you call a car that turns left when you steer right and vice versa?

A Dislexus.

When it comes to telling a joke, even a bad one like the above, you have to be cognizant of timing. Same for buying a new vehicle. There are really no bad times to buy, but there are certain times of the year, month, and week, when some factors are definitely working in your favour. Let's have a look…

End of Year

Two factors work in your favour at the end of the year. Automakers and dealerships want to clear out current-year models to make room for next-year models. Dealerships receive substantial per-car rebates from their respective automakers when they attain certain yearly sales levels. (These rebates are unadvertised and go directly to the dealer.)

We're at the end of the year now. You've no doubt seen the adverts about how much money you can save by buying a 2012 model while supplies last.

Radek Garbowski of the online buying service Unhaggle.com, figures that the 2012 close-out activity is even more frenetic than in previous years: "Manufacturers are looking to drive sales records after rebounding from a few years of slowdown."

Garbowski adds that year-end incentives are even juicier when a manufacturer is set to replace a model with a totally revised one. Case in point is the 2012 Mazda6, which can currently be had with a $7,000 cash incentive.

The all-new 2014 Mazda6 is set to debut later this week at the Los Angeles Auto Show.

According to Garbowski, the heightened competition for year-end customers is felt by the individual dealerships, which are then prepared to offer even more discounts. He notes Unhaggle clients typically can save an extra $1,000 or more, above and beyond the incentives.

Pick a time from the options below and head to your nearest dealer for a bargain. HANDOUT

End of Month

Dealerships are very "monthly" focused when it comes to sales quotas, for the store and for individual salespeople. Sometimes managers and salespeople receive bonuses for reaching or exceeding those quotas. So salespeople and their managers are often never as motivated to seal a deal as they are in the last few days of the month.

But there is a caveat. Incentives change month to month.

When they are high, like they are this November, the longer you wait in the month the more you risk being caught out. This is particularly a factor at year-end, when there is a limited supply of those 2012 incentive-eligible vehicles. If you shop earlier in the month, you avoid the risk and get better selection.

End of Week

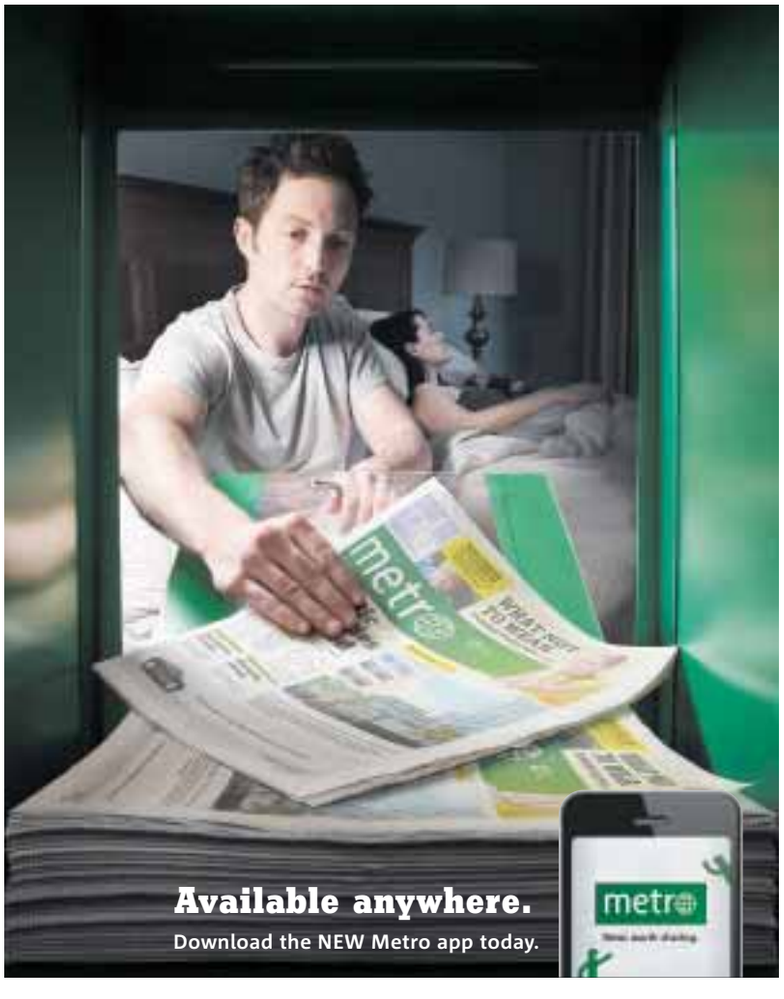
If dealerships throw on promotions, they typically do so on weekends and on the following Monday, when they might stay open later. Sales managers and salespeople often get psyched up to sell in these festive atmospheres, especially if they have some kind of friendly or monetary competition going on between the sales staff.

Might as well take advantage of their jazzed up mood, especially if they've got party favours on hand, like free coffee and Timbits. Hey, every little bit helps.

Top November incentives

1. 2012 Acura MDX: up to $9,000
2. 2013 Dodge Caravan: up to $8,100
3. 2012 Mazda6: $7,000
4. 2012 BMW 3 Series: up to $5,000
5. 2112 Nissan Sentra: up to $4,750
6. 2012 Toyota Rav4: up to $4,000

- **Source: Unhaggle.com.** Excludes high-end luxury models.



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Volvo's reliable, compact wagon delivers refined performance

Second Gear.
2005-2011 Volvo V50

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

The V50 served up Volvo's refined brand of stylish luxury and performance in a compact wagon with an eye for flexibility and space.

Noted for a laid-back driving experience, unique looks and a laundry-list of safety implements, it was a machine popular with families, outdoors enthusiasts and active couples alike.

Feature content included premium audio, a sunroof, leather seating, adaptive lights, an auto-dimming rearview mirror and plenty more.

HANDOUT

Common Issues

Check for proper operation of the external temperature readout, climate control system, audio head-unit and all door-mounted controls, including the power locks, mirrors and windows. Ditto proper operation from the remote key fobs. Look for any "Check Engine" lights or warning messages, too.
Note that a humming sound or vibration, particularly from the rear of the vehicle at low to moderate speeds, could be a symptom of a problem with the All Wheel Drive (AWD) system, if so equipped. Note any harsh shifting or slipping from models equipped with the automatic transmission, too.

Some owners report misfiring, lumpy acceleration and hesitation in some situations, which may be caused by using non Volvo-recommended replacement spark plugs or fueling with 'regular' grade gasoline instead of premium.
Finally, most shoppers should avoid any used model with extensive modifications, especially to the engine or turbocharger system.

Engine

Look for five-cylinder engines in either naturally-aspirated or turbocharged variants, producing as much as 227 horsepower. Automatic or manual transmissions and All Wheel Drive were available depending on the model selected.

What owners like

Refinement, engine performance from the turbocharged mill, handling, interior styling and a feeling of safety and confidence were some of the most highly-rated aspects of the V50.

What owners dislike

Limited at-hand storage, fuel mileage and blind spots are among the most common owner-stated gripes. Some owners wish for a less-stiff ride, too.

Verdict

For peace of mind, have your potential V50 checked out by a Volvo mechanic ahead of your purchase. No hugely troublesome issues seem apparent in this generation, and a stock, non-turbocharged model will be the least costly to run.

Be frugal with your car's fuel intake with these top tips

Key factors. Tire pressure and choice of gas affect consumption greatly over time

According to Natural Resources Canada, the average age of the typical Canadian car is seven years, so to get the best fuel economy and life out of your vehicle, consider these top tips.

Check your tire pressure
The most overlooked factor is the effect an under-inflated tire has on fuel consumption and safety. Most tires lose about one (pound per square each) PSI per month naturally.

A tire that's under-inflated by just two PSI increases fuel consumption by one per cent. It may not seem like much, but according to the Rubber Manufacturers Association it adds up quickly. Around 4.5 billion litres of fuel are wasted each year in North America because of under-inflated tires.

Visually, you cannot tell if a tire is underinflated by two PSI. This is why it's important to check the pressures on a regular basis.

Choose the right fuel
The enemy of engine efficiency is engine "gunk," or harmful carbon deposits left behind on intake valves and fuel injectors. This gunk acts like a sponge, absorbing and trapping gasoline.

"By simply selecting a high-quality gasoline, you can cut down on the build-up of engine gunk," agrees Jim Macias, a fuels technology manager at Shell. "Tests prove that Shell Nitrogen Enriched Gasolines can protect your engine from gunk and can even clean up gunk left behind by lower quality gasolines. And a clean engine performs better and will help to maximize the fuel efficiency of your engine."

Keep up with your maintenance schedule
To prevent costly breakdowns, 94 per cent of Canadian mechanics surveyed by Leger Marketing recommend that vehicle owners change their engine oil at regularly scheduled intervals outlined by the owner's manual.

NEWS CANADA

Using the right fuel can save you money long term. NEWS CANADA

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You will get plenty of advice over the next 24 hours, some of it good and some of it bad. How do you know which is which? By listening not to other people but to your own inner voice. It knows all the answers.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The more you feel the need to prove yourself, the more care you must take when dealing with people whose opinions may be very different to your own. Say the wrong thing and it could impact you financially.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Even if you are one of those rare Geminis who tries to avoid the limelight, all your instincts are telling you to put yourself out there and get noticed. Do something out of the ordinary, something that makes a lasting impression.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
There seems to be a lot of resentment in your mind but there is no point being angry with people for what they have said because they can't un-say it. It's up to you to put it behind you. Move on.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You will say something that is less than positive about a friend today but there is no need to feel guilty about it because it's the truth. A few choice words are just what they need to set them straight.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You don't have to be ruthless but the Lunar Eclipse warns you do have to protect your interests. Someone who envies your success will try to undermine you today. You know who they are. Deal with them severely.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Tell the truth as you see it today, even if you know it is likely to offend someone you are fond of. It is important that they can see things from an alternative point of view. Without it they'll make a huge mistake.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
The planets warn that anyone who approaches you with a money-making idea over the next 24 hours is not to be trusted. The more enticing it sounds the more likely it is you will lose your investment. Give it a miss.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
It's not easy to turn the other cheek when someone hurts you but you would be wise to today. If you get drawn into a dispute it will escalate quicker than you expected, so give revenge a miss.

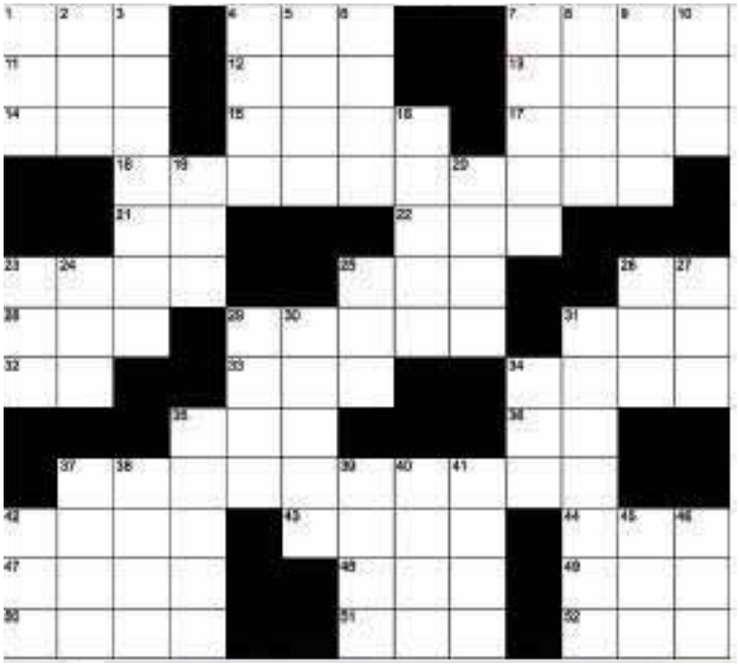
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Avoid getting involved in anything that others might see as deceptive or crooked. Facts often mean less than impressions, so don't let people get the impression that you are up to no good.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You are on the right side and nothing anyone can say is going to change your mind. That's fine but be aware that too rigid an outlook limits true understanding. Being right isn't everything.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If you don't feel up to going out with your friends, just let them know you need some time to yourself. The Lunar Eclipse makes this the kind of day when you want to hunker down and stay inside your own four walls. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Angry
4. Fishing need
7. Charmed actress McGowan
11. Spring month (abbr.)
12. Desperate Housewives star Longoria
13. Role for Hal Holbrook in Evening Shade
14. Average grade
15. Flying (prefix)
17. Transmit
18. Filling out an envelope
21. Just Shoot —
22. Preserve fruit
23. Baldwin of 30 Rock
25. The Joy Luck Club author
26. Post script (abbr.)
28. According to
29. Dole out
31. Ocean
32. Baronet
33. In tune with the latest fashion
34. Ollie's partner
35. Found on the farm
36. Night time medical drama
37. Clean our teeth with this
42. Abuse
43. Without
44. Exclamation of surprise
47. Sword
48. Author of "The Raven"
49. Mate for woman
50. Barracks food hall
51. Saturday late night skit show (abbr.)
52. Pig's abode

Down
1. Apple computer
2. Mimic
3. Romanticist
4. Peruse
5. — and above
6. Truth or —
7. Saran
8. Baking need
9. "I Never — for My Father"
10. Halt
16. Fashion designer: —- de la Renta
19. Christmas mo.
20. Perfectly coherent
23. NYPD Blue notice (abbr.)
24. Allow
25. Knock lightly
26. Small green veggie
27. The Streets of — Francisco
29. Take a stab at
30. —- and lows
31. Brooks
34. Lay down
35. Holmes on —-
37. Pre-record
38. Minerals
39. Gladys Knight & the —
40. Soon
41. Stitch up
42. Alter a skirt or dress
45. The Cat in the —
46. "— Given Sunday"
54. Neighbour of ND

Yesterday's Crossword

What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

5		7	6				9	
			1	8		2		
2					4			
8							5	7
1		5				6		4
3	9							2
			8					6
		4		2	1			
	5				3	7		1

Yesterday's Sudoku

Sharability

FFUN >> Saskatoon Hyundai
PRE-OWNED SUPERSTORE

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RATES AS LOW AS 1.9%

Extends your existing coverage with up to 3 YEARS OR 60,000 kms Additional HYUNDAI Factory Warranty

$149 /bi-weekly

2008 HYUNDAI ENTOURAGE LTD
B5538
~~$20,995~~ $16,388
SAVE $4,607

$98 /bi-weekly

2010 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GL
N864864
~~$15,995~~ $12,388
SAVE $3,607

$118 /bi-weekly

2012 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GL
B5590
~~$20,995~~ $18,388
SAVE $2,607

$169 /bi-weekly

2011 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GL AWD
B5586
~~$30,995~~ $26,388
SAVE $4,607

$74 /bi-weekly

2010 HYUNDAI ACCENT GL
N832158
~~$10,995~~ $10,388
SAVE $607

$198 /bi-weekly

2010 HYUNDAI VERACRUZ LTD AWD
N326024
~~$28,995~~ $27,388
SAVE $1,607

$138 /bi-weekly

2008 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GL FWD
N32717A
~~$16,995~~ $15,388
SAVE $1,607

$159 /bi-weekly

2011 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GL PREMIUM AWD
N855174
~~$28,995~~ $25,388
SAVE $3,607

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- 7 DAY EXCHANGE GUARANTEE
- 137 POINT INSPECTION
- GUARANTEED PRICE POLICY

$98 /bi-weekly

2011 MAZDA 3 GX
B5544
~~$17,995~~ $15,388
SAVE $2,607

$198 /bi-weekly

2010 SUBARU IMPREZA WRX
N332294
~~$28,995~~ $26,388
SAVE $2,607

$104 /bi-weekly

2007 BUICK ALLURE CX
N331128
~~$14,995~~ $11,388
SAVE $3,607

$289 /bi-weekly

2008 GMC SIERRA 1500 DENALI
N855594
~~$34,995~~ $32,388
SAVE $1,107

$109 /bi-weekly

2011 FORD FOCUS SES
N832424
~~$19,995~~ $16,388
SAVE $3,607

$134 /bi-weekly

2010 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
B5574
~~$18,995~~ $17,388
SAVE $1,607

$146 /bi-weekly

2009 JEEP WRANGLER X
B5608
~~$19,995~~ $19,388
SAVE $607

$135 /bi-weekly

2008 HONDA FIT SPORT
N333188
~~$14,995~~ $13,888
SAVE $1,107

Price / payments exclude all applicable taxes and fees. GAC EDE

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